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MEDICAL and PHILOSOPHICAL  
DISSERTATION

ON THE EFFECTS OF

*A New Mode of Electricity;*

FOR THE CURE OF

PARALYTIC, MUSCULAR, and other  
Contractions; RHEUMATIC, NER-  
VOUS, and SPASMODIC  
Disorders, and FEMALE  
OBSTRUCTIONS.

To which are subjoined,

SOME EXTRAORDINARY CASES,

Cured by this mode, within these four months, in Ireland,

In the practice of

*SIEUR PALMÉ*, M. D. F. R. A. *L*

*And Honorary Member of Berlin, London, and Leyden.*

Nonne improbus labor ignota patefacit falso,  
credita dispellet, manifestat abscondita, incerta  
firmat, revelat arcana?

*Baron D'Haen de Machina Electrica.*

D U B L I N:

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M,DCC,LXXIV.

(Price One Shilling and Seven-Pence halfpenny.)

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Scribant, alii, quibus ista mens  
est miracula ex audito ego, quod  
hisce oculis, et qualicunque meo  
judicio percepi vobis spectandum  
propono.

JAC. BONITUS.



Experience and observation, the *two* great  
guides to human knowledge, have convinced  
that there is diffused within the substance, and  
on the surface of all bodies, whether animal,  
vegetable, or mineral, a certain fluid which  
some physicians call æther, some phlogiston,  
others the sulphureous principle, the inflammable  
substance, the electric fluid, or the elementary  
fire.

*Lyons, Exp. and Obs. on Electricity, 2d Edit.*  
4to. published in 1782.

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# E R R A T A.

The reader is requested to correct the *following*, or *such other* errors of the press, as he shall find on perusal.

Page 1, line 2d, for philosophihcal, read PHILOSOPHICAL.

— 23, — 9th, for Boerhave read Boerhaave.

— 26, — 11th, for innate heart, read innate heat.

— 29, last line but one, for arrises, read arises.

— 31, last line, for Hyppocrates, read Hippocrates.

— 36, line 14, for miliusque, read meliusque, and same page, line 15, after proroget : put colon : and for œvum, read ævum.

— 41, — 15, for you have, read he has.

— 48, — 3, after sophista, put a .

begin the next word with a capital, I. and same line for palladii, read palladi, and for veteris, read veteres.

— 49, — 15, for July, read June,

— 53, — 12, for perfectly, read perfectly.

— 58, — 17, for setting, read settling.

— 68, — 2, for Formulas, read Formulæ.



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## OBSERVATIONS.

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*THE* reason why ELECTRICITY has not been more generally used in MEDICINE was, I believe, principally owing to the construction of the MACHINES; which was such, that in particular states of the atmosphere they would not act, and often when they did act, they lost nearly as much fluid as was collected. Likewise (and not the least objection) the practitioners had no other mode of conducting it than by giving SHOCKS  
which

viii OBSERVATIONS.

*which in every practice (independent of the violent pain) oftener did hurt than good. Again, the machines being in hands of persons totally unacquainted with their power, and, what is worse, of anatomy, they were applied like QUACK MEDICINES in the same form and to every constitution EQUALLY ALIKE, without considering whether a PLUS or MINUS was proper. Nor will that general benefit accrue to society from their use until they are taken from the hands of MECHANICS and placed in the physicians; who shall regulate their powers with proper applications of medicine, agreeable to each particular disorder.*

*The machines I make use of are calculated for medical purposes ONLY, the invention of that eminent physician, Doctor Ingenhousz, and are so contrived by late improvements, that none of the collected fluid is lost; and in EVERY STATE of the ATMOSPHERE a given quantity can be accumulated*

culated. The metal cushions, to the number of eight, acting in a vertical position on the plates, the FRICTION is so equal that a quarter revolution of the double machine, whose plates are forty-five inches diameter, produces a greater quantum of fluid than sixteen revolutions of the largest of doctor Priestly's or Mr. Cavallo's machine, made for the earl of Shelburne. The ingenious physician will easily conceive what great advantages these machines have over every other adopted electrical apparatus: But I call his attention to a more considerable advantage, i. e. by particular medical instruments we are able to convey the fluid to the particular part required, so that the nerves and vessels which are distributed to, or near the affected part, shall be immediately affected (as the annexed cases will shew) so as to RELAX or BRACE as experience in PHYSIC and SURGERY shall determine, or the exigency of the case require.

PREFACE

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But



## x OBSERVATIONS.

*But the most material consideration to the PATIENTS is, that by these adopted INSTRUMENTS the cure can be performed without PAIN or inconvenience to the most DELICATE or NERVOUS HABIT; for the mode of conveying the fluid is more a pleasing than painful sensation, as children of two years old have been under the operation without testifying any painful sensations.*

PREFACE.

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## P R E F A C E.

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IT has been usual with writers in treating of any branch of science to trace it from the remotest antiquity, but as this has been already done in every *known* language, and in a *most masterly* manner, by some of the *most* eminent *English* authors, it would be not only unnecessary but *presumption* to quote them, as every medical library must be replete with the various opinions on *this* branch of physic.

Nor

Nor will I obtrude on the patience and time of the *medical* reader, than just to inform him, that my reasons for publishing this treatise, was, knowing this branch of medicine has not been so universally followed in Ireland as on the CONTINENT, or in ENGLAND, but I trust the *period* is not far distant, when *every* medical man will see the advantages derived in *particular* disorders to *patients* from my practice, and the perusal of the annexed incontrovertable facts, it will *convince* their judgments, and *secure* their approbation, i. e. those of the *real* learned of the faculty who conjoin *liberality* of sentiment to their practice. And as to the *narrow minded* and *selfish*, who, as the learned Sir John Pringle, late physician to the Queen of England, justly observes, "are always the "greatest in number in every profession," deserve neither attention or regard.

Non



Non mihi sed rationi, aut quæ ratio esse vi-  
deter milito,

Securus quid mordicus hic tenet, AUT hic.

I am *too* certain that few attempts to improve any art or science are well received at first, owing to a *contracted* education, and a prejudice to particular established hypothesis, and therefore they often reject innovations, as originating in self conceit,—It is true there are some among the many whose educations are more liberal, whose mental faculties *soar* above little prejudices, and their good sense, and a desire for improvement in the great and laborious study of medicine, make them slow either to *censure* or *applaud*, knowing that daily improvements occur in every science, and particularly in *physic*, which though they have not been immediately communicated to them, yet would acknowledge the *absurdity* of censuring an  
*improve-*

*improvement*, because, forsooth, *they* never *heard* of it before. A learned man is ever seeking for *improvement*, he is not *content* with superficial and dogmatic rules, nor will he, if he is an *honest man*, content himself with the falacious modes of particular hypothesis, which *daily* experience may teach the absurdity of:—that honesty will also teach him not too early to applaud an improvement which is not founded on *experience* and repeated tryals of *success*.

As before observed, there may be amidst the many, *very* many men, who *pretend* to the practice of physic in Ireland, *some* who may attempt to reprobate this practice, either from not understanding the *modes* used; or, perhaps, what is *worse*, a total ignorance of one necessary branch of the profession I mean, ANATOMY.—Again, there may be a few who, though really sensible and judicious men  
experienced

experienced in practice, may object, at first perusal of this dissertation, to the modes here adopted; for *alafs*, the most sensible are not always the most enlightened! and why should I expect an immediate acquiescence in a *novel* plan, when it has been the custom of every age amongst *some* to reprobate a *new* doctrine: To this I appeal—To the *studious* of my brethren of the faculty—and I beg them to call to mind how many *important* discoveries have been, from time to time, made in the single branch of anatomy, which at first have been reprobated as impertinent innovations.

It is the fate of this *noble* science, *physic*, to have its *votaries* blindly and *superstitiously* attached to the opinions of some *particular* authors of *note*, until some *one*, more prying into the *Arcana* of nature, ventures to *think* for himself; and as Dermot observes, “*Makes*  
“ *authority*



“ *authority fall a sacrifice to truth,*” as was the case with that indefatigable anatomist, Andreas Vesalius, of Brussels, when he first promulgated his opinion against that of Galen;—The anatomists who were blinded by the latter’s authority, looked on it almost as heresy to contradict him, yet, conscious of his experiments on various subjects being founded on the *unerring* principles of *truth*, he ventured to correct (not to say *expose*) the mistakes of Galen, and further *elucidate* that science, as well as the science of physic in general.—Yet Vesalius had *his* critic’s, among the espousers of Galen; nay, they went further, they even charged him with ignorance, and to stigmatise him more, with *plagiarism and vain glory*: but *he* rose superior to all these attacks, and like *gold* from the furnace, came out *more* refined,—nay, in more modern times, a *Hervy*, who found out the circulation of the blood; *Pecquet*, and *Van Doren*, who discovered

versed the reservoir of the chyle; *Willis*, the anatomy of the brain; *Rudbecks*, the lymphatic vessels; and that great luminary of phyfic and chymistry, *BOERHAAVE*, *all*, and *every* of these met their *opponents* amongst the prejudiced and the illiberal.

The *puny* critic may censure the stile of *this* dissertation, and call it a farago; but however the stile may *displease*, or the *incoherency* be *censured*, I trust, in this respect, I may be *pardoned*; when it is *considered* that a foreigner can hardly be *perfectly* versed in the elegancies of the English language. But to counterpoise this defect, I have placed, in the opposite scale, what, will I trust, balance it, *i. e.* I *have*, adhered to candour with that punctuality which should guide the pen of every honest man; and therefore, I hope it will be found not altogether a useless miscellany.

Si illum objurges vitæ qui auxilium  
tulit;

Quid facias illi, qui dederit damnum  
aut malum?

TERENCE Andriæ.

In the selecting the annexed cases I have given none but such as have occurred within the *last* four months, and those of respectable characters.—I would here wish to take notice of the recommendations I have met from many of the *faculty*, as proofs, that notwithstanding the truth of an assertion I a little before made, that the narrow-minded too often form the *majority*, of every profession; yet there are many most distinguished and *learned* characters, PHYSICIANS, in *this* country, who are *great* exceptions to this rule, and to whose candour I owe *many* patients; and I am happy in every opportunity



nity of giving this respectful testimony of the early approbation they bestowed on my practice. \ The *future* and *permanent* success I have been anxious about for *their* sakes, as well as for *my own*, and that of the *general community*, who are more essentially interested in these modes of practice.

AD 13-

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[ 22 ]

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DISSERTATION, &c.

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**P**HILOSOPHERS generally allow the animal body to be a machine, through which *nature* has a universal superintendency, demonstrating all actions and motions to be the natural consequences of particular causes; some of which have been (to his immortal honour) discovered by my learned patron,  
and

and esteemed friend, Dr. Ingenhousz of Vienna, (*late physician to the court of England, but now actual physician and privy counsellor to the emperor of Germany,*) and are become subjects of mechanical and mathematical demonstration to every learned physician in Europe: that *others* still remain undiscovered, is not that of their own natures they are *less* capable of demonstration; but that the *data* are insufficient to explain the phenomena.

Although the doctrine of nature will never be attainable by ~~systems~~ of natural philosophy *only*, yet, they will ever be considerably benefited by it; for be it remembered, to our *philosophy* we must add *experience*; in this I have the authority of that admired, and ever to be celebrated physician, philosopher, and chemist, BOERHAAVE, who shews us in his elaborate and laborious works, that EXPERIMENTS are the only true *master key*, to the discovery



discovery of the *arcana* of nature, and by which *Key* (if I am allowed the expression) he became *master* of the various properties of natural bodies, but particularly of fire. Upon this principle, his doctrines, both experimental and argumentive, are drawn into conclusion, (as *Frenen* observes,) by reasoning upon them with geometrical exactness. By *Boerhave* we are given to understand, that from the motion of fluids proceeds life, and from a free circulation of those fluids proceeds, that *heavenly* enjoyment! HEALTH; for when any obstruction in any member or part of the body is observed, that moment is that part of the body *affected*; when these fluids wholly cease to *move*, the body *dies*: restore the circulation, and *life* returns.

A person *fainting* or falling into a *swoon*, for a time *seems* absolutely *dead*; yet all the *solids* of the body are in a *natural* state, and  
the

the fluids also, circulation *excepted*: agitate the nervous system, so as to convey what shall renew its systole to the heart, and immediately, the warmth, colour, motion, and every function of life are restored; even persons drowned are proofs of this doctrine, for they may be restored to life, while the lungs remain entire and uncorrupted, by a strong *inflation* and expression of air. These instances are known to every gentleman of the faculty, and indeed to *most* persons who read for *improvement*.

PRECEPTS grounded on such principles which fall under our senses (as D'Alembert truly observes), or are *proved* by EXPERIMENTS, deserve the greatest praise: for the art of medicine from such reasoning, receives more benefits than professors were formerly acquainted with. Plain simplicity will be acknowledged is the surest test of truth, (and the following cases.

cases will corroborate this assertion.) Let us for a moment view the great uniformity, that glorious and perfect original, has founded in the several parts of our human body, and the strict analogy, that is kept up between the greater and lesser parts thereof, and particularly in the circulation of the blood, and of what high *importance* and advantage it is to the art of healing, thus to consider them; for he must be *blind* indeed, who does not perceive those thick clouds of darkness which formerly enveloped the science of physic, and the glorious light which late experiments have shed upon this study. For when, by an accurate inspection of the human body, we find that blood, and other humours, are continually carried through myriads of almost imperceptible meandering tubes or vessels, by the vibration and tonic principle of the muscular parts; then it is by such *experiments*, that we come to know

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wherein



wherein life consists, and how egregiously such physicians must *err*, who depend on theory, or hypothetical reasoning, without the *practice* of EXPERIMENT: although too many *amuse* themselves, *vainly amuse themselves*, who *think* to study *without* the *practical* part; such may be said to blunder in *defining* life, as those former physicians did, who asserted *the cause of life to be*, “*the action of the soul, or nature,*  
“*upon the body; a vital spirit; a small flame*  
“*in the heart; an innate heart; the tempera-*  
“*ment of the four humours, and an implanted and*  
“*influencing spirit.*”

But happy for mankind is it, that such vain reasoning and ideal fantasies are done away, by *confirmed* practice on anatomical subjects, which by daily *experiments*, convince us. (Witness those great authors, Hervey, Steno, Willis, Ruysch; and those living honors to medicine, Monro, and D'Graa, on the circulation, in the lymphatic vessels, and of the blood,)



blood,) that while this *vivifying* liquid, washes the body by its continued *stream*, it affords us *evidence* of the *existence* thereby, of LIFE. For the almighty framer of this complex, but perfect frame of ours, has given *this* salutary motion to *keep* the body *safe*, and free from *corruption*, to which it would *tend*, but for this *circulation*; and *here* we should likewise observe, that this life, is not, strictly speaking, the *duration* or *preservation* of a *compound* substance; for if *that* were the case, that life was so sustained, the very *stones* we tread on, or the *bread* we eat (to the nourishment of life) might be said to live, so long as its respective mixture or composition remained.

But *life*, by the authority of those reasoners I have just quoted, is defined, a perpetual action, and motion, by which the body is principally preserved from disease and corruption. For corruption, or putrefaction,

is no more than an intestine motion produced in the fluids by some *external* cause, destroying the moisture of the parts; so by this true reasoning, it can be only *retarded*, or checked by their *internal*, which is promoted by their progressive motion; and this *very motion* (astonishing as it may appear), wonderfully resists the circumambient atmosphere, and its external action upon the state and intimate mixture of the blood; for the body is immediately exposed to the injuries of the air as soon as the fluid particles come to be in a state of rest.

Life, as before observed, is nothing more than the perpetual motion of the fluids, and not only depends upon their due temperament, but also, and that more especially, upon a certain motion of the solid parts. Therefore, when old age approaches, the moving fibres begin to gradually grow hard, tense, and

and immoveable, the pores are shut up, by which the vessels become too full. Hence the fibres, not being sufficiently animated by this subtile nervous fluid, becomes stiff, inflexible, and unfit for protruding the blood through the body. Besides, when the cutaneous pores are obstructed, the several excretions must in course be retarded, and recrementitious filth must be accumulated in the body; the consequences, every physician is assured, must be fatal to *some*, one *part* or *other* of the body.

This mode of reasoning will fully convince us, that the immediate causes of diseases are more simple than they are generally supposed to be, and that the great difference arises more from the situation of the parts affected, than from the morbid cause itself.

How



How easy can we account for an inflammation, or boil, on any of the extreme parts of the body, and how few symptoms are thence produced.

But how greatly is the scene changed, if the same immediate cause produces an inflammation of the pleura, or lungs: and that its termination into an abscess, which gives relief in the former case, is in the latter, attended with a various train of symptoms, and often times the death of the patient. The same cause that produces a bleeding at the nose, may likewise be productive of a fatal apoplexy: and the only difference is, that in one the blood from the ruptured vessel has a free discharge; whereas in the other it lodges, and presses the nervous tubes, whose free and open action is so necessary to continue life.

In



In pursuing the doctrine of nature, comprehended in the cause and cure of diseases, we ought to assume nothing contrary to our *senses*; that our theories may be founded upon principles the most simple and prevailing, and not be subject to the precarious fate of *HYPOTHESES*. It is well known that our *best* prescriptions are not always adequate to the purpose of removing obstructions, nor are some constitutions able to bear their operation. But this new mode of *medical electricity*, which I make use of in my *own* practice, and wish to *recommend* to my fellow *professors* in physic, is so easy and pleasant, that the most debilitated constitution can sustain it; and the most happy consequences may be expected from a due course of its power: for the efficacy of these operations here made use of, depends, as of every thing else, on a skilful and persevering exhibition of them; so true is that maxim of Hyppocrates.—

Τὰ μὲν γὰρ ἀφελύσαντα τῷ ὀρθῶς προσερχθῆναι ἀφέλυσαν.  
τὰ δὲ βλάψαντα τῷ μικέτι ὀρθῶς προσερχθῆναι ἐβλάψαν.

The now received doctrine of nature further teaches us, that the solid parts of animals and vegetables have a great portion of this *electric* fluid, or phlogiston, or, as Lyons terms it, *elementary fire*; that their elements, or the smallest parts we can see by the finest microscopic glasses, are either fibres, or an unorganised concrete. And the modern philosophy shews us, that the physical elements, or compotent parts of an animal fibre, are *æther, air, water and earth*: Health is therefore, as I a little before observed, the result of a due combination and unimpeded action of those principles, whilst excess or defect proves the cause of diseased solids. It is therefore the business of those who pursue the noble art of healing, aided by philosophic investigation, to search out the latent cause of every disease, and find, to an  
excess

excess or defect, of what principle disorder can most probably be ascribed.

Doctor Ingenhoufs acquaints us, by the repeated results of experiments in his own practice, that this subtile fluid, I have above called æther, or by those other names, as the *elementary fire*, *electric fluid*, or *phlogiston*, enters into this animal system of ours, and there performs an active part. Having quoted this eminent, perhaps the greatest living physician of the present age, his works being wrote, in the year 1781, in the German language, may not be so universally understood; I will point out an English-man, who has endeavoured to tread in the steps of this eminent philosopher, and whose abilities, perhaps, stand unrivalled in these kingdoms. It is scarcely necessary to say,

F

I mean



I mean Doctor Priestley; as I will not put so gross an affront on any medical gentleman, as to *suppose*, he has not *attentively* read the *whole* of his physical works; such *attentive* reader will *remember*, he observes, “ nothing will nourish, that does not contain phlogiston, and probably in such a state, as to be easily separated from it, by animal functions. That the source of muscular motion is *phlogiston*, is still more probable, from the consideration of the well known effects of vinous and spirituous liquors, which consist very much in phlogiston, and which instantly brace and strengthen the whole nervous and muscular system; the phlogiston in this case, being perhaps more easily extricated, and by a less tedious animal process, than in the usual method of extracting it from mild aliments.

“ Since,



" Since, however, the milder aliments do the  
 " same thing more slowly and permanently,  
 " that spirituous liquors do suddenly and trans-  
 " iently; it *seems* probable, that their operati-  
 " on is ultimately the same ;" and he is further  
 of opinion, that animals have a power of con-  
 verting phlogiston, from the state in which  
 they receive it in their nutriment, into that  
 state in which it is called the *electrical fluid* ;  
 that the brain, besides its other proper uses,  
 is the great laboratory and repository for this  
 purpose ; that by means of the nerves, this  
 great principle, thus *exalted*, is directed into  
 the muscles, and forces them to act, in the  
 same manner, as they are forced into action,  
 when the electric fluid is thrown into them,  
*ab extra.*

It would be needless to attempt to prove  
 the existence of a nervous liquid, since that  
 eminent anatomist, Cheselden, has made its

*existence* clear to a demonstration, by the repetition of the experiment first made by Bellini, and related by Bohn, and Pitcairn, and which, he says, he has often done with exact good success. Vide Cheselden, Anat. p. 248.

That able physician and writer, Doctor Mead, though he believed the existence of this fluid, yet was as ignorant of its nature, as Sir Isaac Newton of the powers of electricity; from an attention to which science, the present age has acquired such unexpected insight into the secret and, before, inexplicable works of nature.

“Alterum in lustrum miliusque semper  
proroget : Œvum.”

HOR.

In the Philosophical Transactions of London we have a beautiful remark of that ingenious

genious electrician, Doctor Watson, who observes, we ought not to grow arrogant with discovery, for notwithstanding the very great progress which has been made in our improvements in this part of physics, within this few years, posterity will regard us as only in our *noviciate*; and therefore it behoves us, as far as we can be justified therein by experiment, to correct any conclusions we have drawn, when others more *probable* present themselves.

No class of disorders seems to have been less understood, than those termed Nervous: it is but lately, that the theory of a fluid moving in the nerves, by which all sensation is performed, has been established; but from the conclusions of the latest authors on these subjects, particularly Professor Volta, and Doctor Ingenhoufz; the last of whom observes, " I can here with truth declare, " that it has been my most earnest desire, to  
" see

" see these new electrical machines universally  
 " used in medicine, not only as they are at-  
 " tended with no painful or disagreeable sen-  
 " sation to the patient; but I have also the  
 " happiness, to announce to mankind, that  
 " *since* I have adopted this mode in my prac-  
 " tice, with the different medical instruments  
 " thereto, that my study and endeavours to  
 " bring this art to a *permanent* stability,  
 " *have* not been *misapplied*, because the ter-  
 " rors of the *knife* in many cases have been  
 " frequently prevented, by which the suffer-  
 " ings of humanity have been greatly alle-  
 " viated, and particular benefit has occurred  
 " in all contractions, and nervous cases; and  
 " I doubt not, but in a few years, every stu-  
 " dious medical man will be of my opi-  
 " nion, that ELECTRICITY is the grand vi-  
 " vifying principle, by which her operations  
 " are carried on through the *ad infinitum* of  
 " nature."



“nature.” It will be universally allowed by every honest physician, that the most elaborate prescriptions have not (in the cases of which the title expresses the *intent* of this Dissertation) always been adequate to the purposes they were intended; and yet no fault could ever be attributed to the judicious physician; for when he orders a medicine, to the best of his judgment, he has *done his duty*, and *discharged his conscience*; yet when we know there is a *remedy*, assisted by medicine, and which (as we are assured) in many instances, is capable of removing the obstruction, then, I say, we are *guilty of an error*, not only in *judgment*, but in point of *conscience*, if we do not *apply*, or *cause to be applied*, what *experience* teaches us has *answered* in other *similar cases*. Now in PARALYTIC, NERVOUS, RHEUMATIC, MUSCULAR, and FEMALE OBSTRUCTIONS, how frequently after  
many

many months use of the most judicious medicines, do we leave the patient in the same, if not in a worse state than we found them. Though it must be observed at the same time, there are particular stages of these disorders, or constitutional habits, where no power on earth can effect a cure; but where a *moral* probability of success *awaits*, let us *use* the modes. It is an known and uncontrovertible fact, there is no power, we are as yet acquainted with, that will so instantaneously act on the human frame, as the electric fluid. This was acknowledged by Van Swieten.— Doctor Cullen further observes, *the various medicines recommended as stimulents, under the title Emenagogues, have never appeared to me to be effectual; and I cannot perceive any to be possessed of a specific power in this respect.— One of the most powerful means of exciting the action of the vessels, in every part of the system,*  
is

*is by electricity, and has been employed with success."*

*Dr. Musgrave, treating of the pulmonic consumption, read before the college of physicians in London, observes, " The power of electricity in removing either the obstructions themselves, or at least their concomitant disorders when recent, is so great, I could almost say so miraculous, that I do not except even these from the possibility of a cure."*

*Dr. William Hunter, late physician to his majesty of England, speaking of Dr. Ingenhoufz's improvements in medical electricity, says, " I think from the instruments*  
*" you have adopted to convey the electric*  
*" fluid to the different parts of the body,*  
*" it bids fair to be the greatest discovery*  
*" ever found out for the cure of PARALYTIC,*  
*" RHEUMATIC, and SPASMODIC affections of*

G

" every

“every description, nor do I think it can  
 “*possibly fail* in *totally* removing these dis-  
 “orders, *except* in some very *extraordinary*  
 “habits, or extreme *old* age, and even *here*  
 “a due perseverance must *palliate* if not re-  
 “*move* it.”

The great subtilty and power of this elec-  
 tric fluid, its active and enlightening quality,  
 and mighty tendency to accelerate the mo-  
 tion of the fluids in general, and of the  
 blood in particular—To pervade the finest  
 arteries and nerves,—To *dilate* their *obstructed*  
 or *contracted* orifices; as well as to restore  
 the *tone* of any *muscle* or *fibre* which is either  
*impaired* or *destroyed*, appears to every prac-  
 titioner of this mode, to be the *desideratum*  
 in most *obstructions*, *nervous* and *paralytic* com-  
 plaints.

I think



I think it unnecessary here to quote, in favour of *this* doctrine, a number of other physicians who have wrote in its recommendation in Germany, France, Italy, Holland, England, and Scotland, particularly the *two last* mentioned places, within these *five* years; as they are known and *received*, in every *medical* library, and *quotations* made in every *medical* journal, commentary, or register of Europe, particularly the *medical commentaries* of Edinburgh; (I mention these of Scotland, being wrote in a *language* that is more *universally* understood and *read* than those in *foreign* languages)—it may appear rather unpopular with *some* physicians to quote particular *cases* and *names*. To such, I make *no* reply, having the *sanction* of the very respectable characters herein quoted, who have in the most public and unsolicited manner gratefully thanked me; and as demonstrable truths

ought

ought always to carry conviction along with them, they are submitted to *medical* or *other* investigation,

To follow what we *disapprove*, and act in *contradiction* to our own *feelings*; to be *afraid* of doing *justice*, and speaking the *truth*, argues the most *temporizing* and *slavish* conformity to *customs*; “more honoured in the breach than the observance;” and what every physician, as a *gentleman* and man of *education* ought to be *ashamed* of,

In the infancy of physic, the *Ægyptians* and *Chaldeans* first introduced the method of placing the sick and diseased in public places, and highways, in order to receive information from travellers passing by, how, and in what manner *they* themselves had been *cured* of the like *diseases*. HERODOTUS tells us that  
the

the *Babylonians* obliged themselves by a *LAW* to conform to the same *wise customs*. In *GREECE* it also *prevailed*; where *OFFERINGS* on *votive tables* were hung up in the temple of *ÆSCULAPIUS*, the *God* of *phyfic*, on which the *nature* of the *disease*, and *modes* of curing it, were *engraved* and *recorded* for the *public* good. From those rude outlines, the venerable *Hip-pocrates* collected his *aphorisms*, so justly admired for many centuries, and delivered down to posterity as the very basis of medical knowledge.

Having the authority of such *eminent* persons, and as the study of medical electricity (by these new adopted modes) is *likewise* in its *infancy*, like the primitive *phyfic* of the *Ægyptians*, I shall proceed to mention the following extraordinary cases, which have occurred between June the twenty-fourth, 1783, and

and October the first, a period of little more than four months, and on those of the most *respectable* characters. A perusal and due *investigation* of these cases, and a little *attention* to these *truths* of nature from *senior* PHYSICIANS, will *establish* to the *minor practitioners*, modes so universally beneficent to the community at large ; and I can here with truth declare, that it has been my most earnest wish and desire to see these plans universally adopted. And it is well known to many men in this city, that my house was *always open* to the *learned* physician, and that I was ever ready to shew and *explain* the different apparatus's, and medical instruments, to such who might from the want of a *foreign education* be unacquainted with this *particular* practice ; for my *situation* in life, independent of a *regular* physical education, places me above the little prejudices or fear of injuring my *own*  
particular



particular practice. Being of the opinion with that great luminary of physick, Boerhaave, that "He is but an *indifferent* member of " society, or of the *community* at large, who " does not *convey* his observations to the public, if it *were* but to *excite* a spirit of *emulation* and enquiry in others, who, *possessing* " *superior* abilities for the task, may *improve* " and bring a SCIENCE to *perfection*."

An affected obscurity has been often mistaken for *deep learning* in physick, and that Hypothesis has gained the greatest applause, which was most curiously wrought; but, as the beauty of such hypothesis consisted in the elaborate imitation of the nice texture of a cobweb, so is their duration *equally* uncertain and *precarious*, as PETRARCH *observes* in his *Remediis utriusque Fortunæ*.

Nihil

Nihil sapientiæ odiosius acumine nimio,  
 nihil veré philosophanti molestius, quam so-  
 phista ideo Invidam Palladii finxerunt veteris  
 araneam, cujus subtile opus ac tenues telæ  
 sunt, sed & fragiles nullique usui.

THE FOLLOWING  
C U R E S  
ARE SELECTED

*From a considerable number of the most obstinate Cases that have occurred in my Practice, in Ireland, within the last four months, during my residence in the North.*

N. B. *These applications have been attended with such general success, that within the two last years of my practice in Ireland, I have relieved near two hundred persons in different complaints.*

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MISS ANN MACARTNEY, daughter of the Revd. George Macartney, rector of Antrim, (brought to my house in the country in July last,) who, by the imprudence of an ignorant midwife in the town where his lady fell in a difficult labour, had the STERNO MOSTOIDEUS muscle so much injured, as to draw the head nearly on the right shoulder; she could not  
H turn

turn or move her head in the smallest degree, nor could she view any object on the opposite side, without turning the whole body, as the *rectus lateralis* muscle was so contracted, as to render it impossible to perform the office of bending the head to the opposite side; and any endeavour to move the head, with an intention of easing it, was uniformly accompanied by a most disagreeable contraction of the jaw and mouth; one of the muscles of the neck was protruded nearly two inches, and the contraction of some of the muscles, and weakness or relaxation of their antagonists, often gave her considerable pain.—As this accident happened in bringing her into the world, and being turned of ten years, the bones and cartilaginous parts were formed.—The muscle being also so exceedingly rigid, as to resist the severest pressure, and every thing the skilful of the faculty could devise, having been applied, without even *the least* effect, (the patient, instead of mending, growing gradually worse) I was dubious of being able to give her any relief, she being by far the most difficult subject I had ever met with, or even read of.

This



This case was also of *eight years* longer standing than that of Miss Lindfields, laid before the Royal Society of London, (vid. Philosophical Transactions, vol. 68.) and as Mr. Macartney had read this case, performed by electricity, he was the more desirous of making a trial of its effects on his daughter.—Having therefore placed HER in the insulated chair, at the expiration of seven minutes, her father observed her to move her head nearly round to the opposite side, for the first time in her life. I then continued the operation twice a day, for seven minutes each time, at the expiration of eighteen days the muscle was reduced to nearly the natural size, the rigidity totally taken away, and the spasmodic affection of the mouth perfectly removed. She now moves her head in every direction, with as much facility as though the accident had never happened.—I have the pleasure to find, by late letters from the father of this young lady, that she continues perfectly well, and free from any degree of spasmodic affection—having only, when inattentive, a small inclination of the head, in consequence of the formation of the bones and cartilaginous

ginous parts of the opposite side, but which will be *entirely* removed by a head bandage during her progress to the state of an adult.

The above case was laid before the Royal Society in London, the 18th of July last, and the Medical Society at Edinburgh.

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MRS. KENNEDY, of BELFAST, seventy-one years of age, widow of the late Revd. Mr. Kennedy of same town, had a paralytic stroke that entirely took away the use of the *right side*, and greatly affected the speech: the hemiplegia was so great that she had not the smallest power of motion of *that side*, and was with the greatest difficulty brought to me on the 23d of June last, and although at that advanced age, by being placed (twice a day) under the double plate machine, for seven minutes each time, was recovered, so that she was able to walk on the 18th of July, to my house, which was a considerable distance from her own. Her physician, Doctor Ferguson, who attended her, can testify the above, as likewise that eminent physician, Doctor Crawford,

ford, of Lisburn; these gentlemen saw both the above two subjects under the operations several times.

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CHARLES O'NEALE, Esq; of Colerain, who, some years before he came to my house, in July last, was seized with a paralytic stroke, a perfect hemiplegia, his speech much impaired, a great numbness in the left side of the face, and in a great measure in the hand, so that he was not able to hold any thing; by an application twice a day under the double plate machine, he was perfectly recovered, and the muscles of the hand and face restored to their original tone.

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EDWARD GAYER, Esq; near Lisburn, had for several years laboured under a great weakness and pain of the loins, a numbness in various parts of the body, particularly the head and left hand, from a want of perfect circulation of the blood, was by a few operations

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rations of the small single plate machine, twice a day, perfectly recovered.

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MR. DICKEY, junior, of Ballymena, who had been afflicted with an obstinate deafness for a length of time, was recommended to me by John Campbell, Esq; merchant at Belfast, his uncle; when he first applied to me he was so extremely bad as to be entirely deprived of the pleasure of social converse, as he could not distinguish sounds except when very near him. His ear exuded a very considerable quantity of the most foetid matter, and his situation was truly deplorable. As the case was not only an unpleasant one, but the situation of the young gentleman truly alarming, I was dubious at first of success, but by a continuance of the operation twice a day for a fortnight, he was so perfectly restored, as to be able to hear the beat of a watch held at the opposite part of the room, and he now enjoys the most perfect hearing and health, and on his return home, he most publicly,



publicly, in Joy's Belfast news-paper, of July the 4th, returned me thanks.

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EPHRAIM STANNUS, Esq; of Mount Trevoir, Carlingford, late a captain in his majesty's service in America, was from the very great hardships the corps had sustained during that unhappy war, seized with a paralytic stroke, a hemiplegia, together with a severe nervous complaint, attended with disagreeable symptoms, restlessness, and watchings: The spasms were at times extremely severe and troublesome; he felt violent pains in the head, and the numbness on the *left side* thereof was so great as to render him insensible in that part, to even the greatest powers of the large machine; but by a few days application, he was restored to the use of the limbs, and that serenity of mind he had not known for some time; and out of pure friendship and gratitude, he most publicly thanked me in Mr. Gordon's Newry paper of October the 2d, 1783.—Mr. Mollan, a truly ingenious apothecary of Newry, was witness of this cure, and  
put

put up such medicines as I ordered for him during the operations, as he did for most of my other patients in Newry.

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A MISS MAFFET, of Newry, (recommended to me by a Mr. Cowan, a most sensible and ingenious practitioner in physic in that town) had been subject to most violent fits of the rheumatism, attended with a very disagreeable fever; when she applied to me, she was exceedingly swelled in all her limbs, but particularly in her joints, and in large knobs, attended with the severest pain; she was in consequence extremely emaciated, and reduced to a most helpless state, every thing the most judicious could suggest had been tried, particularly those famed powders of Dr. James, and all to no purpose; but after three weeks attendance to my prescriptions, and applications, she was able to walk about perfectly recovered; although when she first applied she was brought to me between two persons wrapped up in flannels.

To show the power of this fluid in a particular manner in these cases, aided by proper medicines, I shall here beg leave to quote a very singular rheumatic case, cured by that celebrated physician Doctor Simon Lamphier, of Waterford; and published by him in the last Edinburgh medical commentaries for 1783; vol. viii. p. 314. viz.

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M. A. aged 58, in December 1778, taken in all his joints. When he applied he could neither sit or put on his cloaths, which was in August, 1779; in February, 1780, he was perfectly restored.—The same ingenious physician, under this case, has the following observation, viz. “ I have often tried it in old  
 “ rheumatic complaints, particularly when the  
 “ pain was confined to one or two parts, and  
 “ have always experienced the greatest advantage from its use, and this case shews the  
 “ good effects of electricity, in a most troublesome and painful disease, and at same time  
 “ indicates much may be expected from it,  
 “ even when internal *remedies* have proved in-  
 I “ effectual.

“ effectual. A chronic rheumatism, which is  
 “ considered as being in a great measure a  
 “ local complaint, I am satisfied will frequently  
 “ be removed by its use.”

This ingenious physician I am informed, makes use of the common electrical machines, which I take for granted must be the reason of the length of time taken to perform the cure, as the most difficult rheumatic subject I ever had, was not more than thirty seven days.—And here I must beg leave to mention a rheumatic subject I had, when in town last winter, recommended to me by Mr. John Stewart, merchant, of Pill-lane, Dublin, which is equally singular as the above.

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A. Y. aged thirty two, was seized with a most violent rheumatic fever, which setting in her limbs, took the use of them perfectly away, so that she was as helpless as a child even in the *necessary offices of nature*, and as melancholy an object as could possibly be ; yet after a course of fourteen days she could use her



her limbs, and walk to my house, and in twenty-two days was perfectly restored to the use of all her faculties, and to this moment has enjoyed the most perfect health. Mr. Stewart has offered, as the case was so very singular, to attest it publicly, but as it might carry an *empirical* appearance, I *objected*, as Mr. Stewart and the patient can at all times be referred to in Pill-lane.

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EDWARD HUSTON MACGRAA, Esq; afflicted with the rheumatism, which had deprived him of the use of his left hand and arm for several months, and had been subject to the rheumatism for eleven years, was perfectly restored to the use of his arm and hand in three weeks.

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Mrs. MAITLAND, wife of John Maitland, Esq; of Newry, had been afflicted with a most violent nervous complaint, which had attended her for some years, accompanied with such excruciating pains of the head, as to

confine her frequently to her room for several days together, nor was she scarcely free two days in the week from this pain: she had received the advice of the first physicians in town and country, who had most *judiciously* prescribed every *neurotic*, together with every preparation of the *bark*, particularly the *cortex peruv. rub. steel*, &c. and all to no effect; the pain was confined to the left temple and eye, and the *lectus palpebræ superioris*, was affected with a continual *spasm*. As the first object appeared to be, to endeavour to brace the *lectus palpebræ superioris*, I directed the operation to that muscle; but on application of the instrument, I found both it, and also the *orbicularis palpebrarum*, quite void of sensation, so as to resist the impressions, even of the large machine. Having never seen a similar case, I was perfectly at a loss how to act.—I now suspected the fault lay in the nerves of the *elevator palp. superior rectus*, in consequence of which, I ordered gentle stimulants to the part, and bracing medicines, and placed her twice a day under the large machine, for seven minutes each time; at the expiration of thirteen days

days those muscles were strengthened, the whole nervous system braced, and the pains relieved, so that to use her own and her friends words, she now enjoys that perfect serenity and ease, which for some years she had been a stranger to, even for a single day. I could here quote several instances of the success of the electric fluid, applied to particular parts in many nervous disorders; but to state more cases of *complaints of this nature*, would not be of so much avail, as of those proceeding from other causes; for, this is the province where, in every individual, resides that inexplicable peculiarity of constitution, to which medical writers have given the appellation of IDIOSYNCRACY; and which is so *various*, that there are hardly two persons with whom precisely the same method of cure can be adopted. As it was owing to the cure of the *following* extraordinary case, that Mrs. M. applied, I shall take the liberty to insert it in the lady's own words.

S I R,



S I R,

*About eight years ago, I was seized with a nervous disorder, of which I never was relieved, although I have expended upwards of twelve hundred pounds, and had tried the most eminent of the faculty in England, Ireland, and at Bath, where I was two years to no effect; I was first seized with a noisy giddiness in my head, and an uncommon swelling of my eyes and stomach; a palpitation of my heart, and I shook and trembled all over, so that it was with difficulty I was supported between two servants. This was followed by a dejection of spirits, anxiety of mind, and loss of flesh; and I was so reduced, as not to be able to rise from my settee without assistance. In this deplorable situation, I applied to you at the desire of both my physicians, and I now, with the greatest pleasure declare, that in less than six weeks, you perfectly restored me; I now sleep as well as ever, and am relieved of every complaint.*

*I remain your obliged,*

*Humble servant,*

LUCRETIA JONES.

*Oak-Hill, June 29th, 1783.*



A Mr. M'CORMICK, merchant, of Whitehaven in Cumberland, aged fifty-two, applied to me in Newry, recommended by that learned classic and physician, Doctor Edgar of Newry; his complaint was an habitual hoarseness, and for some months before he applied, from the fault of the lungs, the extremities of the blood vessels being worn off by sharp humours, brought on an hæmoptoe, (spitting blood,) attended with violent palpitation of the heart, and spasms in the feet and hands, particularly worse when in bed; both Doctor Templeton and Doctor Edgar, thought him in a decline, and I expected he never could return to his family again; but by the application of the instruments of both machines to the breast, together with inhaling twice a day, by particular tubes, pure fixable air into the lungs, and ordering him under a course of *balsamics*; he was so relieved in three weeks, as to return home.

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As the following case is truly singular, I think it merits a place in this treatise; it is the first of the kind, I ever had an opportunity of trying these modes on, and is as follows.

Mr.

Mr. RICHARD CUNNINGHAM, of Church-hill, Castle Wellan, (well known in this country for several ingenious discoveries in chymistry, &c.) applied to me in September last, at Newry, for a violent and acute pain, between the third and fourth vertebræ of the back, and an evident protuberance, which daily increased; before I saw him, the most judicious embrocations had been applied, as also internal medicines, which far from abating, seemed rapidly to encrease the complaint, and every symptom of spasms &c. indicated a distempered spine. I could not suppose, having never seen this means used, it would have the desired effect, and was about to *prescribe* the application of the caustics, as recommended by Doctor Jeb of London, in similar complaints; but as this gentleman had, in the course of last winter, applied to me in Dublin, for a violent rheumatic gout in the head, which was of more than nine years standing, and of which the mode of conveying the fluid to the exact part, had perfectly cured him, he was exceedingly desirous of my trying a few operations. As the protuberance was daily increasing, and being perfectly assured no injury could attend a trial,

I began

I began the operation in presence of several gentlemen, amongst whom were doctor Edgar, a very learned and eminent physician of Newry, and Mr. Cowan, an ingenious practitioner of physic, also in Newry. I placed him under the large machine, and conducted the fluid by the elastic probes between the joints of the vertebræ; on the second day, during the operation, a prodigious quantity of pus was exuded, which was of such a nature as to *excoriate* every part it touched; by continuing the process a happy cure was performed in nine days, to the astonishment of every gentleman of the profession, who either saw or heard of it.

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A MR. CROZIER recommended to me by the aforesaid Mr. Cowan, who about six years ago was seized with a paralytic stroke, a perfect hemiplegia, so that the use of the right side was totally taken away, nor could he put his tongue between his teeth, or move a single joint of hand or leg; was in thirteen days

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able



able to walk up and down stairs, by leaning on the balustrade of the stairs, and could put his tongue out as far from his mouth as was natural, and from his mode of now articulating it appeared probable he would have been perfectly restored to speech, but on the fourteenth day he was obliged to go a considerable distance in the country to attend an aged mother in a dangerous way.—I here also beg leave to mention, at the desire of Mr. Cowan, that he had *himself* applied the *usual* electricity to this gentleman, such as *drawing sparks* and giving *small shocks*, &c. for several weeks, with no effect, but that in one day my mode of conveying the electric fluid to the particular parts was of more service than weeks of the operation of the common electrical machines.

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A CAPTAIN LYNCH, for four years had been subject to spasmodic affections of the right hand and foot, but when he applied to me had also an ulcer in the neck of the bladder, and

an



an excruciating pain at both extremities of the urethra and Os pubis, which was so violent as very frequently to prevent his walking. The anus exuded externally; from the fissures of the corrugator an acrid humour was periodically discharged, occasioning an immoderate itching; he often voided drops of grumous blood, and a continued flow of mucus, very foetid, came off with the urine. He had laboured under this complaint for several months, but was in twenty-seven days happily recovered.

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MRS. CHEVIERS, aged 33, wife of captain Cheviers, of Newry, owing to an extraordinary difficult labour, and violent laceration of the parts, was afflicted with an ulcer and *emissio involuntaris*; she was in so deplorable a state as to be able to rest only in one situation.—Her physician,—doctor Templeton, a gentleman professedly acknowledged (as I really believe him to be) as *eminent* in the profession as most in *Ireland*, and of twenty-five years

years most successful practice in Newry, had tried the most *studied* and elegant *formulas* to no effect; the case rather growing worse, she was obliged to be brought to my house in a chair in the greatest pain, twice a day, but on the fifth day, to the astonishment of myself and her friends, she walked to my house, distant from her own near a quarter of a mile, and in less than a month was perfectly recovered of every complaint. I should have taken notice, she had also a *Hæmorrhage* upon her at the same time. The 18th of September she applied first to me, and on the 13th of October, left me restored.

*N. B.* Exclusive of the proper prescriptions I ordered for her, she inhaled twice a day a large quantity of dephlogisticated air.

Doctor Edgar and Mr. Cowan, practitioner of physic, both of Newry, as also Mr. Mollan, a very sensible and ingenious apothecary, who put up my recipæ for the different patients, used frequently to attend to see their patients go under the different operations, and if necessary can, and *will* attest these facts, as  
also

also the cases of upwards of thirty-nine other patients whom I relieved in violent chronic complaints, and within the space of four months, being from June 20th, 1783, to October 10th, 1783.

## APPENDIX.

also the effect of the disease of the lungs  
 patient whom I believe to be a violent chronic  
 complaint, and which is a case of  
 nature, being that the patient is  
 (Gentle 1844)



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## A P P E N D I X.

WHEN I first began this treatise, I meant to have offered some hints on the Gout, as during my general practice in obstinate cases, particularly of the RHEUMATIC, it has often occurred to me that a *particular* kind of electricity might be of use in gouty complaints. I am more led to favour this opinion, not only from my own practice but from some hints laid before the president and fellows of the royal medical society of Edinburgh, about eleven months since, by doctor Falconer, and afterwards referred to the society in London, by that able physician, and since published in a pamphlet called a “ *Theory of the Gout, with practical observations in negative electricity for the cure thereof.*” I agree, with the ingenious author of that treatise, that although we may attach ourselves to the opinion

nion of its efficacy in the gout, yet we should not be so obstinately attached as not to be open to conviction; for my own part I acknowledge, with doctor Falconer, I have never tried it in cases of the gout, and therefore publish these sentiments, and leave the investigation of it to men of literature, acknowledging what is not founded on truth must necessarily, in this age of science, fall: But instead of dismaying (because not tried) it ought to *prompt* the spirit of *medical* enquiry.

Doctor Falconer further observes, " After  
 " repeated fits of the gout, we observe in  
 " many subjects substances on the joints called  
 " chalk stones; these substances from their  
 " nature are supposed to contain a large  
 " quantity of fixed air; I therefore suppose that  
 " the phlogiston collected in the pained  
 " part during a paroxysm, may unite with,  
 " or be attracted by an acid air; hence  
 " passing off in that acid sweat, or perspiration,  
 " we always perceive at the termination of a  
 " paroxysm, leaving the fixed air, which  
 " perhaps before made part of its composition,  
 " as the nervous fluid to be absorbed  
 " by

“ by some of the animal fluids ; this, most  
 “ probably, from these substances appearing  
 “ near the joints or bony parts, is effected  
 “ by the ossific juice, which forming an ob-  
 “ struction too strong for the weak momen-  
 “ tum of the circulation in these parts (being  
 “ generally the extremities) to overcome, is  
 “ at length protruded on the superficies, or  
 “ just under the cuticle of the skin, and  
 “ thus forms these chalk stones.”—Doctor  
 Priestley favours this opinion, (see his disserta-  
 tion on air, p. 265, and following.) “ Phlogis-  
 ton having a stronger affinity with acid air, which  
 I suppose to be the basis of common air,  
 than with fixed air, it is not surprising that,  
 uniting with this, in preference to fixed air,  
 the latter should be precipitated, whenever a  
 quantity of common air is made noxious, by  
 an overcharge of phlogiston.”

May we not admit this reasoning in the  
 present case? and that fixed air enters into  
 the composition of the nervous fluid, by the  
 wonderful properties ascribed to this princi-

L

ple



ple by doctor Hales, and experimentally confirmed by doctor Ingenhoufz and doctor Mc. Bride, (see the latter's Medical and Philosophical Effays.) These are discoveries that deserve more attention than perhaps, as practising physicians, we pay to them; as there is no light in philosophy or medicine that should be beneath the attention of every physician, not knowing to what use they may in the end tend to, and if but to the relief of *one* individual, is not our humanity amply rewarded?

Dr. Priestley further observes, the phlogiston we take in with our aliment, after having discharged its proper functions in the animal system (by which it probably undergoes some unknown alteration) is discharged as *effete* by the lungs into the great common menstruum, the atmosphere. Vid. page 277, on air.

I hope these few collected hints will not be found altogether useless; let us learn from the *industry* of the Bee, to collect from every flower:



flower: It is by the attention of authors we, like the Bee, gather the materials, and our attention in practice must finish the task. Attention to the philosophic truths of nature may, in time, form a successful method of curing this dreadful disorder. Doctor Loftus, Wood, the present secretary to the medical society in London, in a treatise he has lately laid before that *learned* body, observes, “*pa-*  
 “*ralytic and rheumatic complaints, being often*  
 “*accompanied with acute or inflammatory dis-*  
 “*eases, led me to consider a mode, by which*  
 “*electricity might be usefully employed in such*  
 “*cases as the gout: it was natural to conclude,*  
 “*that if throwing a certain quantum of this*  
 “*electric fluid into the human body would heat*  
 “*as well as accelerate the circulation of the*  
 “*blood, the extracting, or taking a certain quan-*  
 “*tity away from the human body, must produce*  
 “*quite a different effect.*”

Doctor Walker also observes, and quoted by doctor Heberdine before the society, in proof of doctor Loftus's assertion, I have often seen a skilful electrician lower the pulse by

by the one mode of electricity equal to the great and manifest degree of increase of the *other* electricity, and have seen its *happy* effects in many instances of inflammatory rheumatisms, acute and putrid fevers.

Doctor Falconer further remarks to the Edinburgh society, in speaking of internal medicines, "In these cases I should think, "that dephlogisticated air, if it could be "procured in sufficient quantities, might, "with due application of tonic medicines, be "of service."

I would wish to observe, my apparatus's for preparing dephlogisticated air, are acknowledged, by every philosopher and physician who have seen them, to be the *best* calculated for the *accurate* preparation of this air to any *ever* invented; and that I have most successfully applied it, conjoined with proper medicines, with the greatest success in many difficult cases where electricity could have no possible effect.

DUBLIN, December 1-83.

P. S. Since

P. S. Since this appendix went to press, I have received an account of some very singular and extraordinary cures; selected from near five hundred cases, cured by this NEW MODE of electricity, in the practice of M. LEDRU, professor of philosophy at Paris, authenticated by the regent physicians of the medical faculty at Paris, and ordered by the King to be printed at the government expence for the general good of mankind, under the title of "*Rapport de Messieurs PHILLIPE, DARCET, COSNIER and PAULET, &c. sur les avantages reconnus de la NOUVELLE METHODE d'administrer l'Electricité dans les maladies NERVEUSES, particulièrement dans L'EPILEPSIE et la CATALEPSIE.* 8vo. 2d. edit. juillet 1783.

The first edition of this treatise has been laid before most of the royal and medical societies in Europe in the course of the last summer, and a physician of the college in London means shortly to translate it into English, with some remarks on his own practice in similar complaints.

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An account of the first edition of this work  
may be seen in WALKER'S monthly REVIEW,  
for November 1783, vide page 425.

BI DE 63

FINIS.